



**U.S. Department of Justice  
U.S. Attorney's Office  
Western District of Texas**

**Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FEDERAL JUDGE SENTENCES SAN ANTONIO MAN TO  
100 MONTHS IMPRISONMENT IN PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS CASE**

**United States Attorney Johnny Sutton** announced that 42-year-old Joseph Robert Martinez was sentenced this morning to 100 months in federal prison for being a convicted felon in possession of a firearm.

In addition to the prison term, U.S. District Judge Fred Biery ordered that Martinez be placed under supervised release for a period of three years after completing his prison term.

On May 30, 2003, San Antonio Police Department narcotics detectives executed a search warrant at Martinez' residence. The detectives recovered narcotics and a handgun. The handgun, a .357 caliber revolver, was found in Martinez' bedroom. Martinez had previous state felony convictions for delivery of heroin (Bexar County/1991), burglary of a habitation (Bexar County/1991) and illegal investment (Medina County/1998).

"Armed, violent criminals are a real threat to our neighborhoods and the good, law abiding people that live there. Today's sentence will make San Antonio safer because it takes a known career criminal and drug dealer off the street for years to come. Criminals are quickly learning that if you carry a gun, you will do hard time in federal prison," said United States Attorney Johnny Sutton.

This case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives together with the San Antonio Police Department. Special Assistant United States Attorney Gerald Matheny prosecuted this case on behalf of the government.

The prosecution of this case is another example of how the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Texas is carrying out the Department of Justice's gun crime initiative - Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN). Project Safe Neighborhoods is a nationwide federal initiative designed to reduce gun violence in our communities. PSN promotes partnerships among federal, state, and local law enforcement to target criminals in possession of guns. Federal law insures that when an armed criminal is arrested, that individual will face swift criminal prosecution and be exiled from the community through the use of stiff mandatory prison sentences.

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